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By Erin Logan



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12-2 CRYPTOQUIP

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The Collegian welcomes your letters to the editor. They can be submitted by e-mail to *letters@pub.ksu.edu*, or in person to Kedzie 116. Include your full name, year in school and major. Letters should be limited to 350 words. All submitted letters may be edited for length and clarity.

**CORRECTIONS**

If you see something that should be corrected or clarified, please call our editor-in-chief, Tim Schrag, at 785-532-6556, or e-mail him at *news@pub.ksu.edu*.

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# ENGINEER | K-State’s engineering program prepares graduates for career, student says

Continued from page 1

to become an engineer,” Peterson said. “The salaries are higher than some other jobs, and I think K-State has a good program that is definitely helping me get ready for my career.”

Bakul Desai, associate vice president at HNTB Corporation in Kansas City, said firms look for a multitude of qualities

when making a hire.

“Of course the GPA is important, but we also look for things like leadership skills, community involvement and whether or not the student has been involved in things outside of school that have helped develop career-related skills,” Desai said.

Desai, a 1980 K-State alumnus, said there was a significant difference between

education systems in a country like India and the United States.

“Having studied in both countries, I can say that the engineering syllabus in India is much more math and science heavy,” Desai said. “Frankly, the United States has some catching up to do, but I know that if we can put some more emphasis on math and science, U.S. students can be extremely competitive on a global level.”

# Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity to host 13th annual Black and Gold Pageant

Jakki Thompson  
staff writer

On Saturday night, the Kappa Tau chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity will host their 13th annual Black and Gold Pageant. The pageant will be held in the K-State Student Union’s Forum Hall. The doors open at 6 p.m. and the show starts at 7 p.m.

“This is more of a confidence pageant instead of a fashion pageant,” said Jacar Union, sophomore in social services. “The ladies showcase the talent they have. We have a formal competition where the ladies give an introduction about themselves in a business format in formal wear.”

The pageant is for contestants to learn life skills outside of the actual needs of

the pageant. Outside of the pageant, the contestants are taken to church and are also brought to leadership workshops and dining and etiquette workshops.

“We want them to learn life skills,” Union said. “We want these young ladies to leave with more knowledge than when they came into the competition.”

The Black and Gold Pageant has been around nationally since the 1980s as a competition for collegiate women to demonstrate the elegance and intelligence of African-American women.

“This pageant is used to break down the barriers and to give these ladies confidence,” said Brandon Clark, fraternity Alpha adviser and state director for Alpha Phi Alpha. “This is a great self-esteem booster and educational opportunity to

the campus and to these women.”

Clark has been at K-State since the beginning of the Black and Gold Pageant on campus and said the pageant has become a part of the K-State culture. Clark said the university touts the pageant to multicultural students who are considering K-State.

The Union has also been supportive of the pageant. Although the Union Program Council uses Forum Hall to show films on weekend nights, UPC reserves Forum Hall for the Black and Gold Pageant on the first Saturday of every December.

“This is an event that our fraternity takes an enormous amount of pride in,” Clark said. “This is the 13th year and we have 13 girls. That signals that this year will be good.”

# K-State daily briefs

Karen Ingram  
news editor

The final doctoral dissertation of Lin Xie, “Statistical Inference for Rankings in the Preserve of Panel Segmentation,” will be held Dec. 5 at 2:30 p.m. in Bluemont 112.

The McCain Holiday Home Tour takes place Dec. 4 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Five homes will be featured on the tour, decorated for the holiday season. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door, cash or check only, and proceeds will go to support the McCain Performance series and more. Tickets may be purchased at several locations, including Bluestem Bistro, Hy-Vee, Dillons, or McCain Auditorium. For other locations, or to find a list of the houses on the tour, visit [k-state.edu/mccain/](http://k-state.edu/mccain/)

[Calendar/Home-Tour.html](#). Questions may be directed to McCain Auditorium at 785-532-6425.

The School of Leadership Studies will show a film on Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. in the Leadership Studies Building’s Town Hall. The documentary film, “Troop 1500,” follows a group of Girl Scouts who reunite with their mothers doing time in prison for serious crimes. The event is free and open to the public and will be followed by a discussion.

The Thai Student Association will have a booth in the K-State Student Union today to raise money to help victims of the flooding in Thailand. Questions may be directed to Sarinya Sungkatavat at [sarin-ya@ksu.edu](mailto:sarin-ya@ksu.edu).

# THE BLOTTER ARREST REPORTS

## WEDNESDAY

**Daniel Jay Currie**, of Riley, was booked for criminal damage to property. Bond was set at \$750.

**Jeremy Robert Hamm**, of Ogden, was booked for probation violation. Bond was set at \$500.

**Stephen Lamar Cunningham Jr.**, of Fort Riley, was booked for failure to appear. Bond was set at \$1,500.

**Amanda Marie Lewis**, of the 2500 block of Farm Bureau Road, was booked for driving with a canceled, suspended or revoked license. Bond was set at \$500.

**Daniel Aaron Wasinger**, of the 4400 block of Tuttle Creek

Boulevard, was booked for sale or distribution of hallucinogens or marijuana and sale or distribution of other illegal drugs. Bond was set at \$5,000

**Troy Dean Mead**, of the 400 block of Juliette Avenue, was booked for domestic battery. Bond was set at \$500.

## THURSDAY

**James Joseph Jedadi Sicard**, of the 400 block of Fremont Street, was booked for disorderly conduct. Bond was set at \$750.

**Sam Cooper Brooks**, of Overland Park, Kan., was booked for driving under the influence. Bond was set at \$750.

- Compiled by Sarah Rajewski

## OBITUARY

# Roadside bomb kills Fort Riley soldier

Karen Ingram  
news editor

A Fort Riley soldier was killed by injuries from an improvised explosive device while on dismounted patrol in Afghanistan.

Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Murray, 38, of Red Boiling

Springs, Tenn., stepped on a roadside bomb in the Helmand Province in southern Afghanistan and died on Nov. 21. This was his first deployment.

Murray was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st

Infantry Division and deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in April. Murray joined the Army in 1991 and came to Fort Riley in February of this year. His awards include the Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement

Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Korea Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with two Campaign Stars, the Global War on Terror Service Medal, the NATO Medal and the Combat Action Badge.

Murray is survived by a wife and two children.

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# MISSED MARK

Standardized tests poor indicator of student performance, success



Caleb Greinke

Standardized testing has (mercifully, for past generations) not always been required in higher education. There was a time when a sharp essay, strong academic history and teacher recommendations sufficed, but since the 1950s, entrance examinations like the SAT, ACT and GRE have become fixtures in the rat race for spots at virtually all colleges and universities.

We're told that these mind-paralyzing tests are a convenient and accurate way of measuring our propensity for academic success. (After all, it's just so darned difficult to judge a person on his or her record and achievements.) But they fail to measure highly important but unquantifiable human characteristics that play an integral role in determining a student's success in school. When pitted against other more numerous and representative indicators of student qualification, entrance examinations fail to make the grade. Not only are they outrageously costly, they are mostly useless as a forecast of future behavior.

The first major testing company, Educational Testing Services, was formed in 1947 by conglomerating the test-processing arms of several preexisting firms like the College Entrance Examination Board. ETS landed its first major contract in 1951 for the Selective Service College Qualification Test that, during the Korean War and Vietnam War, determined whether you were bright enough to deserve a deferment for college enrollment. If you

were bad at math or verbal skills, you'd fail the test and become eligible for forcible conscription. Thus, one of the earliest of these tests could determine whether you lived or died.

By the 1970s and 80s, ETS and new rival companies began to guarantee their academic tests, like the SAT and GRE, were reliable and accurate indicators of students' future performance and cognitive ability. But research has shown since the 1980s that these claims are not, on the whole, exactly true.

As University of California Santa Barbara professor Rebecca Zwick has noted in her book "Fair Game?: The Use of Standardized Admissions Tests in Higher Education," studies on test predictability of future performance were widely mixed. Some studies showed the tests were modestly useful, while others showed no clear link between test performance and collegiate GPA, degree attainment or eventual career success. The findings of three current and former secondary and collegiate faculty members in the 2011 book "The Myths of Standardized Tests" confirm as much. If admissions committees believe entrance exams are good indicators of potential success, they must also at the same time reject the equally significant body of evidence that indicates the tests are nearly useless.

Despite the murky validity of the ACT and others, colleges still require students take them, sometimes multiple times. But there seems to be little awareness of the financial burden these exams impart on students and family. The ACT with writing option costs almost \$50 per sitting. The GRE costs a cool \$160 if you live in the United States. Want to send your scores to more than four schools? That's a fee of \$23

per report. Colleges should realize that the benefit of the tests in relation to the personal cost does not warrant higher education's maniacal devotion to entrance exams. If the colleges themselves were paying these fees, they'd drop the testing requirements in a heartbeat.

These exams can never measure the intrinsic character and personality traits that distinguish each applicant. A perfect score on a set of trigonometry questions doesn't describe your enthusiasm for the major field to which you are applying. A short writing exercise on an irrelevant prompt can't impart your passion for history, chemistry or political science, nor does it illustrate one's record of self-discipline, dedication or the knowledge base that shows you're ready to write your thesis or dissertation. Worst of all, the GRE or ACT says nothing of your abiding curiosity about the world.

Students are not as one-dimensional as the College Board hopes they are. If you want to know the mind of a student, judge them by their grades, accomplishments, recommendations and writing or research on relevant topics. You might even take the drastic step of having a conversation with them.

In "The Mismeasure of Man," scientist Stephen Jay

Gould expresses the injustice of the entrance exam pseudoscience well: "We pass through this world but once. Few tragedies can be more extensive than the stunting of

life, few injustices deeper than the denial of an opportunity to strive or even to hope, by a limit imposed from

without, but falsely identified as lying within."

Caleb Greinke is a senior in history. Please send all comments to [opinion@spub.ksu.edu](mailto:opinion@spub.ksu.edu).



Illustration by Erin Logan

# Women should not let significant others take advantage of them



Abby Belden

The word doormat is pretty self-explanatory. There are only so many ways it can be described - it can be a fancy floor decoration you buy from a store to wipe muddy sneakers on a rainy day, but in this instance, it can also be used to describe a person. Merriam Webster's second definition states that a doormat is a person who submits without protest to abuse or indignities.

Now ladies, I think we have the ability to say we deserve better than to be treated poorly, but if we are ever called a name by our significant other, put down by them or even humiliated, we often brush it off as acceptable behavior because we care about them. We let our significant others run free with our trust and allow double standards to trickle into the relationship. I am not saying that it makes us, as women, weak; it makes us human.

I am also not pointing fingers at the male counterparts, saying they are to blame for this. I know that men can also be submissive and accept being treated as a doormat. We have free will to come and go as we please. We also have the ability to put an end to such behaviors, but often we don't.

The question is: why? According to a May 3 blog post, "Why People Stay In Bad Relationships - From An Upscale Matchmaker" by Nicole Westwood, professional matchmaker, there are plenty of reasons couples stay in a relationship that may not be working.

Westwood stated in her blog that two of the many reasons might be a low self-esteem level and a feeling of not being able to find another significant other.

I think in addition to that fear, low self-esteem in women can be a result of bat-

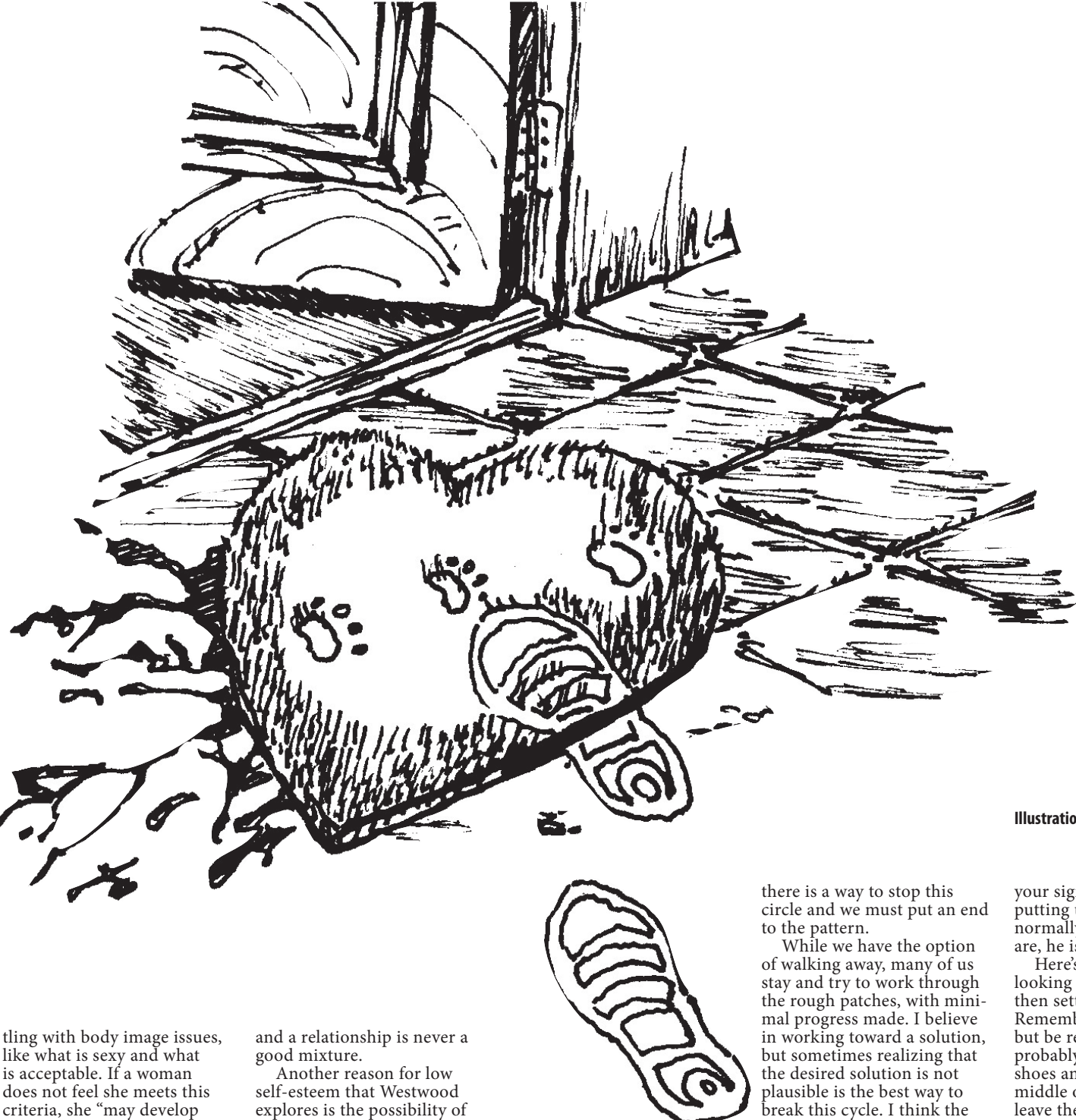


Illustration by Yosuke Michishita

ling with body image issues, like what is sexy and what is acceptable. If a woman does not feel she meets this criteria, she "may develop relationships with people who take advantage of her vulnerability," according to the article "Signs of Low Self-Esteem in Women," on ehow.com. Regardless of the relationship, whether the woman is a girlfriend, friend, mother, sister or wife, low self-worth

and a relationship is never a good mixture.

Another reason for low self-esteem that Westwood explores is the possibility of accepting a bad relationship as a learned behavior, maybe from a previous relationship or during childhood. Ehow.com states that low self-worth is a normally a product that begins in childhood.

According to Westwood, a third reason could be that the

belief of finding a second real love does not exist.

While these may be some of the many reasons why women allow themselves to be treated as doormats,

there is a way to stop this circle and we must put an end to the pattern.

While we have the option of walking away, many of us stay and try to work through the rough patches, with minimal progress made. I believe in working toward a solution, but sometimes realizing that the desired solution is not plausible is the best way to break this cycle. I think the fear of being alone is often what causes us to settle in certain situations and allow ourselves to be taken advantage of.

Ladies, if you came to college looking for Mr. Right and come to find that all you are doing is fighting with

your significant other and putting up with things you normally would not, chances are, he is not right for you.

Here's a tip or two: stop looking for the prince and then settling for the frog. Remember what you deserve, but be realistic, too. He's probably going to leave his shoes and socks out in the middle of the living floor and leave the toilet seat up, but those details look small in comparison to feeling inadequate or being treated like a doormat.

Abby Belden is a senior in journalism and mass communications. Please send all comments to [opinion@spub.ksu.edu](mailto:opinion@spub.ksu.edu).



# Men’s basketball team wins sluggish battle against Colonials

**Tyler Dreiling**  
staff writer

As has been the case all year, the Wildcats found themselves in a closer-than-expected game at the half. However, the men’s basketball team was able to pull away from the George Washington Colonials in the second half as they went on to win the game 69-56. Head coach Frank Martin was not pleased with the first half and knows his team still has some things to learn.

“We have to learn how to play offense the way we play defense, which is unselfishly and disciplined,” he said. “Our guys were pretty good defensively. We just got too relaxed and played too casually.”

For about 10 minutes in the second half, the Wildcats played effectively. K-State stretched a 32-29 halftime advantage to a 19-point lead with 7:31 left. But Martin said the whole game should have gone that smoothly.

“We decided to do what we practice (during the second-half run),” Martin said. “I have no idea why we can’t perform that way for more of the game.”

Behind nine straight points from guard Will Spradling, K-State out-scored the Colonials 15-1 during a crucial four-minute stretch.

“We did a better job of making the extra pass, and that opened up some shots for us,” Spradling said.

Martin was displeased with how his team returned to playing “lazy and selfishly” after a lead opened up.

“We played team basketball on offense and defense, and then went right back to playing bad basketball,” he said. “We defended fairly well, but we are nowhere near where we need to be on the offensive end.”

The game began in a back-and-forth manner, with neither team leading by more than six until the Wildcats made their second half run.

A 3-pointer from Shane Southwell started the spurt, Samuels followed with his own 3-pointer and the game was on its way to being in hand for the Wildcats.

K-State was paced by double-doubles by Thomas Gipson and Jamar Samuels. Gipson, with his 17 points and 13 rebounds, led the team in scoring for the third consecutive game.

“Thomas has the ability to score around the rim,” Martin said. “He has a big body and he knows how to use it.”

“He’s good. He is a very good player and we are glad he wears our uniform,” Martin added.

Samuels said having another presence inside the paint is a big advantage for the team.

“You don’t get a lot of freshmen doing what he does down low,” he said. “It helps to take the load off everybody else when he’s playing like that.”

Gipson’s double-double marked the first time a Wildcat freshman has accomplished the feat since Michael Beasley in 2008.

George Washington coach Mike Lonergan cited poor free throw shooting as a reason his team was unable to keep up with the Wildcats.

“It is a disappointing performance for us overall,” he said. “Our horrendous free throw shooting prevented us from having a lead at the half. We could not stay in the game because we could not score.”

The Colonials were just 11 of 21 at the charity stripe and shot just over 31 percent for the game.

On the Wildcat side, Samuels added to Gipson’s effort with a 10-point, 10-rebound effort of his own. Spradling added 14 points on 5-of-12 shooting and Jordan Henriquez snagged 11 rebounds in just 15 minutes.

With the victory, K-State moved to 4-0 on the season, but has a very difficult stretch ahead. The Wildcats play at Virginia Tech on Sunday and against West Virginia in Wichita next week. Martin admits he wishes the team had one more game to prepare for what lies ahead.

“It would be nice to have another game,” Martin said. “We still have to learn, we still have to grow.”

Samuels, who was raised in Washington, D.C., is looking forward to the challenge and playing close to home.

“I’m looking forward to it, but we have to get better,” he said.



Evert Nelson | Collegian



Evert Nelson | Collegian



Tommy Theis | Collegian

**Top: Thomas Gipson**, freshman forward, puts it in for 2 more points for the Cats on Thursday night. K-State won against George Washington 69-56 in Bramlage Coliseum.

**Bottom left: Junior forward Jordan Henriquez** earns K-State another point during a free throw against George Washington.

**Bottom right: Senior forward Jamar Samuels** snatches a rebound out of the air during the game against George Washington on Thursday night at Bramlage Coliseum.

## Basketball team looks to get on right track

**Kelly Mchugh**  
staff writer

After spending their last two games on the road at the Cancun Challenge, in Cancun, Mexico, K-State women’s basketball will be back in action on Saturday night as they take on the Iowa Hawkeyes (5-2), who are fresh off a 58-47 win against Virginia Tech. The game will take place in Bramlage Coliseum at 7 p.m.

The Hawkeyes are members of the Big Ten Conference, and have proved very competitive this season with wins against Harvard and Virginia Tech. K-State will be their second game this

“I think when we lined up against Purdue, we had made great progress, because that’s preseason No. 1 in the Big Ten.”

**Deb Patterson**  
head women’s basketball coach

season against a Big 12 Conference team, as the Hawkeyes lost to Texas A&M last week, 74-58.

The Wildcats, now 3-2, spent their first game last week in Cancun playing against Hofstra University, which, prior to playing K-State this season, had averaged at 90 points per game. While K-State was unable to keep up with them in the shot percentages, the defense proved strong as they left the court with a loss of 64-54.

The next day the Wildcats took on the Big Ten’s Purdue Boilermakers, and wound up with a loss of 46-42. Once again, their defense played strong, but the score proved that the Wildcats would need to step up on their offense.

“I think when we lined up against Purdue we had made great progress, because that’s preseason No. 1 in the Big Ten,” said K-State head coach Deb Patterson. “While we didn’t score a lot, I thought we competed our offensive possessions hard, and just didn’t make



Logan M. Jones | Collegian

**Emma Ostermann**, senior guard, loses the ball during the K-State vs. Dartmouth game at Bramlage Coliseum on Nov. 12.

a lot of point blank layups or open shots.”

However, senior captain Jalana Childs had two very strong games for the Wildcats as she recorded her career high 23 points against Purdue, and held an impressive 20 points against

Hofstra for a double-double with her 11 rebounds.

“Jalana was really terrific,” coach Patterson said. “We know she’s gonna see double teams on almost all of her

## Volleyball survives first NCAA tourney round

**Corbin McGuire**  
staff writer

The K-State volleyball team swept the Wichita State Shockers in three sets, 25-18, 25-22 and 25-17, in the first NCAA tournament game since 2008.

Kaitlynn Pelger said she was nervous before the game, but calmed down once it started.

“I think personally for me, in my first NCAA tournament, I didn’t know what to expect,” Pelger said. “I just had to realize it was just another match. We’re one of 64 teams out of 300-something that still gets to play.”

Pelger and Alex Muff led the Wildcats with 15 and 10 kills respectively. Muff also led the team with a .412 hitting percentage.

Head coach Suzie Fritz said Pelger and Muff have each periodically stepped up for the Wildcats this season.

“Pelger is an all-conference selection and has been a significant part of our offense,” Fritz said. “Alex Muff is our defensive specialist of the two. She does things at the net that we have never had a middle do.”

The Shockers struggled to score the entire match as the Wildcats held them to a .119 hitting percentage. The Wildcat’s defense dug 13 more balls than the Shockers with Pelger leading the team with 17 digs. Tristan McCarty and Kuulei Kabalis were not far behind Pelger in digs, having 12 and 14 respectively.

The first set went back and forth between the two schools until the score reached 12-12. Then, the Wildcats found their rhythm offensively and scored seven straight points. The streak served to be the difference as the two teams played evenly the rest of the set with the Wildcats winning 25-18.

Muff said winning the first set was crucial for the Wildcats.

“It was super important for us as a team to win the first set like

that,” Muff said. “We’ve struggled to come out and play our best volleyball early. We relaxed and knew what we had to do.”

It looked like the Wildcats would run away with the second set early as they grabbed an early four-point lead. The Shockers battled back to a 1-point lead at 18-17. The Shockers’ lead did not last long as the Wildcats were sparked by a Kathleen Ludwig block to get back in control of the game. The block got the score to 19-18 in K-State’s favor and a late three-point run gave the Wildcats the breathing room they needed to secure a 25-22 win.

The third set resembled the first one, as it was a tight battle early on until a four-point Wildcat run gave them a 15-11 lead. K-State’s lead would not get any smaller than 3 points from that point on as the Shockers could not handle the Wildcats’ offensive firepower and dropped the third set 25-17.

The Wildcats play the former Big 12 Conference member and No. 2 ranked Nebraska Cornhuskers Friday, who swept their first round opponent, Jackson State. The winner will travel to Honolulu, Hawaii, for the next round of the tournament.

Fritz said her team has exceeded outside expectations all season and they will prepare for the Cornhuskers like every match before.

“We just work one at a time. We’ve been that way all year,” Fritz said. “I’ll be frank and say that nobody thought we were going to be any good this year, and we found a way to win matches. We had every intention of playing our best volleyball in December and we’re going to try to do that again tomorrow.”

First serve will be at 7 p.m. today at Lincoln, Neb., in the Coliseum. The match will be available to watch free on huskers.com and it will be broadcast on KMAN-AM 1350.



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FOR FOOTBALL COVERAGE CHECK OUT THE

GUIDE



# EMO

## ‘Take Care’ exposes Drake’s inability to produce fresh sounds



Zach Weaver

### “Take Care”

★★★★☆

album review by Zach Weaver

It won't take listeners long to realize Drake hasn't strayed far from his slow-grooving poetry slams full of love and sadness. Drake's second studio album, "Take Care," looks to rebound from a so-so performance on his 2010 debut of "Thank Me Later," yet tumbles into the same sad pitfall, coming up short.

The album cover preps listeners for a bummer theme as it shows the 25-year-old Toronto native staring dully into a golden goblet. This sadness lies in contrast to his glimmering gold necklace and the gold-lined paintings that accompany him, showing that fame doesn't always bring happiness.

Though there is apparent progress in some of the musical arrangements of this album compared to the previous, there isn't enough variety to prove to me that this is anywhere near ground-cracking, let alone breaking.

The album starts off on a powerful tone as Drake boasts his status in the hip-hop hierarchy on the track "Over My Dead Body." Leaving his modesty miles away from the studio, Drake spits about girls buying him drinks, the ho-hum feeling of being taxed six figures and his overflowing confidence in himself.

Drake's songs continue on to speak of the luxuries of stardom — having a constant cash flow, girls galore, a frenzy of fans at every turn and friends greeting him at each touchdown of his private jet. Despite these social perks, Drake still permits his heart to weep out his feelings in each of his songs. Most are sappy ones that beg for sympathy in each scenario of his eternal lust-life.

Drake takes the swagger momentum of the first track and brings it to a screeching halt as he eases into "Shot For Me." Calling out his exes, the rapper speaks of how there is nobody better than him out there, and that the ladies that were dumb enough to take a sabbatical from their relationship will never find anyone else.

A few stars thankfully come forward to stud up and salvage some of his album, some of which include Andre 3000 and Lil Wayne on "The Real Her," an always comical Rick Ross on "Lord Knows," as well as cameos from Kendrick Lamar, The Weeknd, Nicki Minaj, and (sigh) Birdman. Though these stars did their job in adding to their respective songs, most of the tracks were solos on Drake's part. Due to Drake's typical series of serenades, however, his solo tracks naturally started to get old after the first few trudged along.

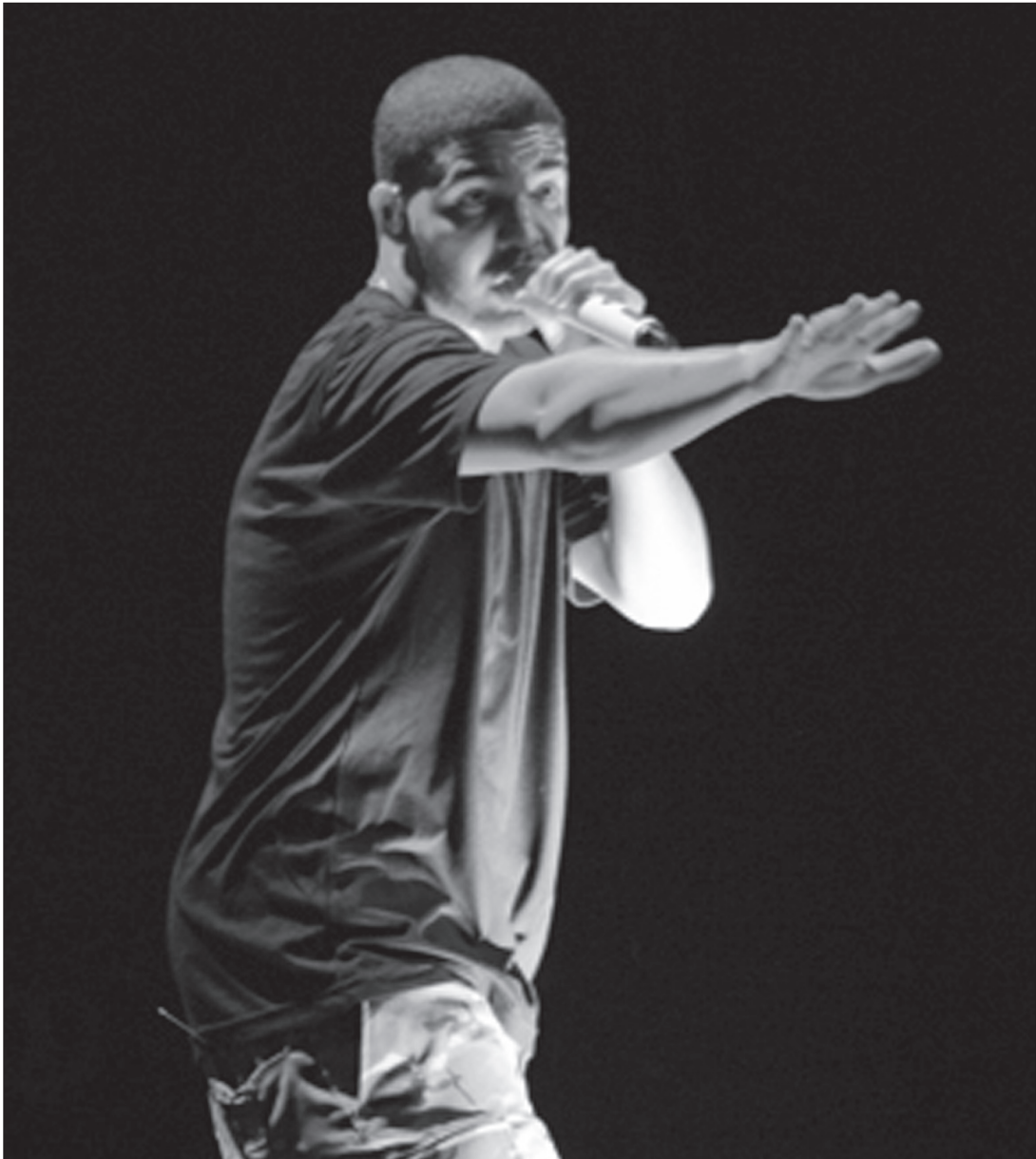
Drake continuously shows an interesting side of things as he has been sipping stardom since 2006, and yet seems depressed about every little thing that comes with it. Half his songs speak of the platinum hits, the rock-star lifestyle and the beautiful women, yet do so in a tone that reminds me of watching paint dry.

What I'm saying is Drake is as close to "emo" as hip-hop will ever get.

To his credit, Drake still shows he belongs on top along with some of the quick-spitting emcees in the hip-hop game, even though he may be more suited for the R&B genre with his soulful choruses and beats.

On the standout "Make Me Proud," Drake bounces atop the warped up beat, making listeners fall entranced in his flow. How fitting, too, to include Minaj on this one. Her sexy attitude dominates the beat, further showing that Lil Kim isn't the only "phat" female in the history of hip-hop.

One of the few highlights of the album is Andre 3000's contribution in "The Real Her." With the first three minutes filled with Drake's auto-tuned over-singing, then by Lil Wayne's short and standard string of rhymes, this track was a sitting duck. Cue Andre 3000 with the southern soul that's stripped down and simple to the core. He is the



courtesy photo

Drake performs at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta, Ga. Staff writer Zach Weaver calls Drake's newest album "as close to 'emo' as hip-hop will ever get." Photo courtesy of Wikimedia.

Morgan Freeman of the track, meaning when he speaks, you yearn to listen.

Drake has always been, and from the looks of it will continue to be, one of the bigger disappointments that I've followed. He has such a talent with words, and is definitely poetic enough, yet seems to just put out the same

stuff over and over.

"Take Care" will strike some listeners as another overly dramatic lyrical representation of their own love struggles. Die-hard Drake fans won't be disappointed, yet for the most part, unless you're looking for that hour-long sympathy binge, this one will probably be one to pass on.

With the exception of a select few from this album, I wish you good luck getting your finger to the "next" button on that changer before Drizzy Drake's depression lulls you to sleep.

Zach Weaver is a senior in journalism and mass communications. Send comments to [edge@pub.ksu.edu](mailto:edge@pub.ksu.edu).

## ‘Northlanders’ entertains with Vikings, violence, virtue



Tyler Brown

### “Northlanders”

★★★★★

book review by Tyler Brown

For months, I heard nothing but praise for Brian Wood's comic, "Northlanders," yet I held off. Finally, I succumbed to curiosity and purchased the first volume entitled, "Sven, the Returned," and let me tell you, I had been missing out. I think what Wood was aiming to do was create a history-based comic book with modern trappings in

language to look at a pivotal time in history. This time was when the world was changing from Paganism to Christianity and the free life of the warrior was threatened by ever-burgeoning empires that sought to absorb these cultures.

The story is one similar to others we've heard throughout history. It tells of Sven, a young man returning to his village in Orkney to claim his inheritance only to discover his uncle, Gorm, has taken over the village and his birthright. However, since Sven ran away when he was younger to more exotic lands and loves, he is viewed as an outsider to those he used to call neighbors. Realizing this, Sven gathers what allies he can to fight a war against his uncle and reclaim the birthright he spent so long running away from. The only wrench in his plan is that there are others who wish to claim Orkney as well.

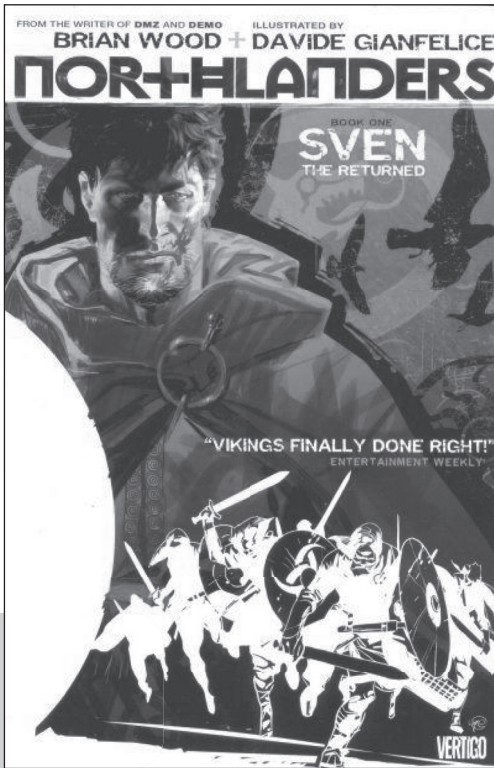
When it comes to the writing,

Wood is no stranger to engaging characters; after all, he has proven himself more than capable in his other series, "DMZ" and "Demo." The pacing of the book is great. We get the main story of Sven's return to Orkney with flashbacks peppered throughout that reveal Sven's departure from his village, his life as a slave and his first true love. Another great character comes in the form of a wild woman known to the villagers as the "Hunter's Daughter." On the art side of things, Davide Gianfelice knows his way around a lot of Viking bloodshed. I found myself reacting out loud to many of the panels where swords are impaling enemies. Adding to the viscera and dark tone of the story are Dave McCaig's colors, which I never once thought seemed out of place.

There is a great story, with likable characters, violence, sex and Norse mythology woven

throughout. Wood, Gianfelice and McCaig have managed to craft an interesting story about a group of people that only exist today in dense textbooks or simply in our imaginations. What's even better is that you can pick up this volume of the series and not feel an obligation to continue if it wasn't your particular cup of tea; "Sven, the Returned" is a self-contained tale that charts Sven's departure from Orkney to his eventual finding uneasy peace at an old age.

Tyler Brown is a senior in English. Please send all comments to [edge@pub.ksu.edu](mailto:edge@pub.ksu.edu).



courtesy photo

The DC comic "Northlanders" tells the story of a young Viking's battle to claim his birthright. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia.

## ‘Zelda: Skyward Sword’ makes good use of new Wii motion controller



Jayson Sharp

### “Skyward Sword”

★★★★★

game review by Jayson Sharp

The Nintendo Wii has been out for five years. This console has changed the gaming

industry, both by attracting a whole new generation of gamers, as well as introducing a new style of game controls. Unfortunately, many have felt that these controls have never been used to their fullest extent, but Nintendo has changed that with "The Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword."

"Skyward Sword" is the newest title in the now 25-year-old franchise. With its humble beginnings back on the original Nintendo Entertainment System, the Zelda franchise continues to be a revolutionary success.

There are several factors that set "Skyward Sword" apart from other Wii titles.

The first and most important feature is the use of the Wii MotionPlus controller. This has completely revolutionized the combat system. The way you swing the controller determines how Link swings his sword, and at times the type of swing is very important since the enemies have gotten smarter. They will watch the way you hold your weapon and will react to it by blocking and counter-attacking.

Some of the old favorites may not make appearances, like the old Iron Knuckles, but some others, like the hydra from the very first Zelda game, do.

Zelda games have always had a compelling story, and

this game does not disappoint. Though still lacking real voices for the characters, the game's soundtrack backs the new in-game cinematics very well, evoking more emotion than spoken words.

Some may comment that the graphics are not up to par with recent titles for other systems due to the Wii's limitations, but what this game lacks in polygons it makes up for in style. Landscapes in the distance are blurred, making the long distance shots almost like works of art, especially during the flight scenes. The game's style has been tweaked a bit: dungeons are smaller, but the open world has so much more to do. Each area

has its own side quests that add to the overarching story.

The few issues that I ran into were partly my own doing. Using an older Wii controller with the MotionPlus attachment, I found combat rather difficult and at times unresponsive. After that, I decided to invest in the new style controller with the MotionPlus technology built in and found that my gameplay improved dramatically. Also, as a veteran of the Zelda style games, the amount of hand-holding and in-game hints was frustrating, but I did find some of the hints helpful.

This title, like many Zelda games before it, blurs the line between video games and

art. Very few titles are able to accomplish that feat well, but the Zelda games have always been the exception. The landscapes and views are beautiful, the story is compelling, the characters are well developed and the new controls do a pretty good job of immersing you in the game world.

Games like this make it clear that the "Legend of Zelda" series is still able to provide many hours of original entertainment and innovative gameplay in a world of sequels and reboots.

Jayson Sharp is a senior in computer science. Send comments to [edge@pub.ksu.edu](mailto:edge@pub.ksu.edu).

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# Committee to address dead week, finals policy



K-Staters,

Have you ever sat in a classroom wishing things could be different? From teaching methods to lecture formats, you have a say. Last academic year, the Enhanced Classroom Experience Committee was created to explore and create ways to benefit you in the classroom.

This committee uses both student and faculty input to enact policies and procedures that will benefit everyone here at K-State. Every academic college, including K-State-Salina, is represented on the committee by one student and faculty member. The committee is co-chaired by chief of staff Eli Schooley and student affairs director, Kyle Reynolds.

ECEC meets monthly, and they discuss a variety of topics at each meeting. This year, they're writing a learning compact to define the high standard of education K-State holds, working on K-State's dead week and finals week policy, and looking at the TEVAL system (the faculty evaluation system) to make it more beneficial.

ECEC is working to make the classroom experience the best it can be. Next week, they will be meeting about K-State's dead week and finals week policy. If you have ideas or suggestions let Eli ([elis@ksu.edu](mailto:elis@ksu.edu)) or Kyle ([ksukyle@ksu.edu](mailto:ksukyle@ksu.edu)) know. They would appreciate your feedback about dead week and finals week as the committee shapes a policy on the issue.

Enjoy the final home football game of the season this weekend. As always, feel free to come visit us in the Office of Student Activities and Services or send us an email ([nspriggs@ksu.edu](mailto:nspriggs@ksu.edu) or [kbormann@ksu.edu](mailto:kbormann@ksu.edu)). We enjoy getting your feedback and hearing your thoughts and ideas.

I hope you had a great fall break and I wish you luck as you prepare for finals.

Go Cats,  
**Nate Spriggs**  
student body president

# SPEECH | Speakers address self-defense, snow policy, Old Stadium track, EMAW

Continued from page 1

Kocher proposed a "Clean Cats Report," which is a form that he said would allow students to report sanitation issues in order to help janitors do their jobs more effectively.

"This form would allow students to communicate with janitors and help them out," Kocher said. "There are so many benefits to maintaining a clean environment. Not only do clean classrooms look better, but they help students avoid trips to Lafene, which is always a good thing."

The third speaker was Dani Winters, freshman in communication studies, who spoke of the need of a student self-defense seminar.

"The threat of violence is real, and even though it may not seem like it, we have the numbers to prove it," Winters said.

According to Winters, there were 12 violent crimes on the K-State campus in 2010, three of which were rapes, and nine of which were assault cases.

"It may not seem like 12 crimes is a big number," Winters said. "But what if you were one of the 12 people attacked on campus?"

Winters said that although there are programs like Wildcat Walk that help students travel safely, self-defense training is something that is necessary to teach students.

"I don't like looking over my shoulder and questioning my safety," she said. "I think that young people are even more susceptible because most of us

aren't very well-educated when it comes to self-defense."

Winters proposed to start a self-defense seminar called "Mission: Wildcat Self Defense" in order to help students learn basic safety maneuvers.

Kasey Coad, senior in horticulture, addressed the K-State snow removal policy, or lack thereof.

"The lack of a well-documented

"We as students have a voice and we can change something if we see fit."

**Kasey Coad**  
senior in horticulture

snow removal policy compromises the safety of pedestrians on campus," Coad said. "Last year we had several people fall and hurt themselves, including a professor who broke his ankle."

Coad proposed to use student volunteers to shovel snow and also created a clear, succinct policy that addressed the quality and timeliness of snow removal.

Patrick Mellard, junior in agricultural economics, spoke on the condition of the running track in Memorial Stadium.

"The other day I was talking to a

member of the K-State rugby team and he mentioned that the track was really falling apart," Mellard said. "One of his starters rolled an ankle from stepping into one of the many holes on the track."

According to Mellard, there are currently 25 holes on the track with a circumference greater than five inches, something that he said is a major safety hazard to runners.

Fixing the track would cost about \$45,000, an amount Mellard said can be reached through a variety of fundraising efforts.

"I propose that we overlay the track and provide the K-State community with a running track that can last up to 25 years," Mellard said.

The last speaker was Thomas Weeks, sophomore in communication studies and political science. Weeks spoke on the need to maintain the EMAW tradition, and addressed the recent controversy surrounding the matter.

"The term EMAW is not sexist because it is not meant to discriminate or degrade anyone," Weeks said. "It is a tradition that is over 50 years old and members of the community care about saving EMAW because it brings the community together."

All of the speakers passed out petitions which they planned to present to the Student Governing Association, and encouraged audience members to get involved.

"We as students have a voice and we can change something if we see fit," Coad said. "Collectively the student body is the largest and most powerful group on campus."

# TO THE POINT Petitions must incite action to enact change

**To the point** is an editorial selected and debated by the editorial board and written after a majority opinion is formed. This is the Collegian's official opinion.

Students have a lot to say about what happens on campus. We spend significant time here and have a vested interest in solving problems. Students can sometimes see issues on campus that are not seen by faculty, staff or administrators. We may see issues on campus and want to raise awareness of them but having an outlet to do so isn't always available.

The Free Speech Forum that was presented yesterday is a way to provide a voice to issues students see around campus. After each speech, listeners were provided with a chance to sign a petition support the cause of their choice.

As an ed board, we think that this is a great program. But one of the snags that we see in the process is making the final connection from student petition to real action on campus. Where is that connection? Why haven't we seen it?

With a collective voice, students have the ability to change situations on campus. We need to remember that action creates change. So sign a petition, but also go to others and spread information about a cause that is important to you.

# Toxic algae in Gulf of Mexico halts oyster season

**Roland Ruiz**  
The Battalion, Texas A&M

Intensified by historic drought conditions, the Gulf of Mexico has been subjected to the invasive and life-threatening algal bloom known as red tide, which has killed 4.2 million fish since September.

Red tide is a brownish-red algae, known as phytoplankton or *Karenia brevis*, that produces a neurotoxin called brevetoxin — a compound that disrupts normal neurological processes. During drought conditions, the Gulf of Mexico is more susceptible to red tide because the algae favors warm, salty water.

As fish swim through the red tide, they ingest red tide cells, which attack their nervous system and paralyze the fish, causing them to suffocate. In oysters, the neurotoxin becomes a heat-stable compound that cannot be cleared by cooking the oyster. The Texas Department of State Health Services shut down oyster season, which was supposed to begin Nov. 1, in the Gulf of Mexico due to red tide.

Meridith Byrd, marine bi-

ologist for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, said that although it's not safe to eat the oysters due to the neurotoxin, it is safe to eat fish, crab and shrimp.

"The reason why it's safe to

"The reason why it's safe to eat fish, crab and shrimp is because the neurotoxin affects the organs and not the meat."

**Meridith Byrd**  
marine biologist,  
Texas Parks and Wildlife  
Department

eat fish, crab and shrimp is because the neurotoxin affects the organs and not the meat," Byrd said. "Since the cancellation of the oyster season in the Gulf of Mexico, it has affected the oystermen that rely on oysters as a source of income to feed their families. Businesses that rely on oysters that come from the Gulf of Mexico have to go to other

states to obtain their oysters."

Lisa Campbell, professor in the Texas A&M University department of oceanography, said that red tides have occurred historically in the Gulf of Mexico and are a part of the natural cycle.

"To explain when and why red tide occurs, we have a number of active research projects that involve monitoring bloom abundance and developing predictive models," Campbell said. "My research is funded by the NOAA [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration] and the Texas Sea Grant Program, which support training of graduate students in research on red tide."

Byrd said that red tide can be harmful and fatal for pets and encourages people not to bring their pets to the beach.

"Since dogs have smaller bodies compared to humans, fighting off the neurotoxin would be much more difficult for a dog," Byrd said. "Dogs can easily ingest the neurotoxin by licking their fur and grooming themselves. There have been documented dog and coyote deaths due to the red tide in the past."

Campbell said the Gulf of

Mexico obtains the red tide once every few years and the last red tide that occurred was in 2009.

"Although the current continuing algal bloom is not the most damaging to have occurred, the bloom is nonetheless affecting large areas of the Texas coast," Campbell said.

The Texas Sea Grant's mission is to develop a better understanding of Texas' coastal resources through research, outreach and educational programs in support of sustainable use and conservation of resources for the benefit of the economy and environment. Jim Hiney, communications coordinator for the Texas Sea Grant College Program, said the grant provides about \$800,000 annually in competitive research grants to scientists at a number of the state's accredited universities.

The Imaging Flow Cytobot is a funded project from the Texas Sea Grant, developed by Campbell, which combines video and flow cytometric technology to capture high-resolution images. This instrument will be able to develop predictive indices for early warnings of harmful algal bloom events that occur in the Gulf of Mexico.

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Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		9		5		1	7	
				4		8		5
1					6		3	9
						3	2	
2	6							5 7
		4	8					
9	2		1					8
8		3		9				
	1	5		7		9		

Difficulty Level ★ 8/29

Answer to the last Sudoku.

9	7	3	4	2	5	6	8	1
6	5	4	3	1	8	2	7	9
1	8	2	9	6	7	5	3	4
2	6	7	1	8	9	4	5	3
8	3	5	6	4	2	9	1	7
4	1	9	7	5	3	8	2	6
3	2	1	8	9	4	7	6	5
5	4	6	2	7	1	3	9	8
7	9	8	5	3	6	1	4	2

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# With NASA, students research effects of volcanic ash on airplane engines

Dusty Dhuyvetter  
contributing writer

*Editor's Note: This article was completed as an assignment for a class in the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications.*

Airplanes are the safest form of travel, according to AviationEarth.com, and a group of K-State students are helping to make this even more of a reality. The group, which consists of six senior mechanical engineering students, is working with the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center on a project funded by the U.S. Air Force Research Lab to test the effects that volcanic ash can have on airplane engines.

"There is very little research into the effects of volcanic ash ingestion," said Shawn Georg, senior in mechanical engineering.

According to Georg, when a volcano erupts, it emits ash consisting of rock and glass fragments into the air. This turns into an "ash cloud" which can cause problems for airplanes flying in the area. The glass fragments in an ash cloud have a lower melting temperature than the internal parts of the airplane engine, so when the ash is ingested into the airplane's engine, the glass melts and can start to gum up.

Georg said the only way to combat this mid-flight is to shut down the airplane engine to allow it to cool down and let the plane glide on its own for a period of time. After some time of this, the glass will become hard again, at which point the pilot will start the engine up again, hoping that the glass is brittle enough to break off the internal parts of the engine.

Airplane engines will con-

tinue to run for some time after ingesting volcanic ash. This group of K-State students is working with NASA-DRFC

"We know you can fly through some ash, but we don't know how much ash that is. Knowing this would help so you don't have to shut down huge airspaces."

Nathan Henry  
senior in mechanical engineering

on testing how much steady exposure to volcanic ash an engine can take before it fails. The students are helping with this task for their senior design

project, which is required to graduate.

Flights across Europe were cancelled due to volcanic eruptions in Iceland earlier this year, serving as an example of a time when more information on this topic could have been beneficial.

"It's not so much that you can't run ash through the engine — they know at some point it will cause failure — the question is how long and at what densities will the failures occur," said Nathan Henry, senior in mechanical engineering. "We know you can fly through some ash, but we don't know how much ash that is. Knowing this would help so you don't have to shut down huge airspaces."

The design group is attempting to provide more insight in this area by working with NASA-DRFC on analyzing engine performance and degradation

while the engine is subjected to a simulated ash cloud over an extended period of time. This simulated ash cloud will be created by a mechanism designed by the group of students.

"We are providing a steady stream of ash to simulate an aircraft flying through a matured ash cloud far away from a volcano," said Joe Lohkamp, senior in mechanical engineering. The group is currently in the process of coming up with a design for the mechanism which will simulate the ash cloud, and picking materials to use in its creation.

"We will have a pipe which air blows through and you mix ash with the air as it blows," said Henry. "The pipe will bring it closer to the engine where we will have nozzles that simulate the distribution of ash into the engine. We'll have a control system which will tell how much ash is being ingest-

ed into the engine and then fix the levels if they are not what we want to test."

The testing will be done using a U.S. Air Force C-17 engine.

"They are going to retire the engines and throw them away anyways, so they are going to do destructive testing analyzing the effects of volcanic ash ingestion," Georg said. "It's very similar for commercial aircraft because it's a widely used engine."

The design group meets on a weekly basis via videoconference with engineers from NASA-DRFC and the NASA Glenn Research Center. Other members of the design team include Shannon Barnes, Matt Beason and Tyler Yost, all seniors in mechanical engineering. The group is advised by David Pacey, professor of mechanical and nuclear engineering.

# Students display cotton clothing lines in competitive fashion show to win internship

Jakki Thompson  
staff writer

The College of Apparel, Textiles and Interior Design sponsored their first ever cotton fashion show, "Cotton: The Fabric of Our Future, Today," on Tuesday night. Students, faculty and family members of the Cotton Challenge Project course filled the K-State Student Union's Grand Ballroom to see handmade creations of students.

"This class was crazy and a lot of work," said Tong Zhou, senior in apparel design. "There was a lot of work that went into tonight. When we needed to patch and sew clothing together, the sewing machines would break. And even though it was stressful at times, all of it came together tonight and it all paid off."

Zhou placed second in the Open Cotton Contest. She also won the Female Denim competition for Lee Jeans. These two competitions were just a few of many that allowed students to creatively compete in a new course to K-State.

"It felt so great to win," Zhou said. "I wanted to win so much. When they were announcing that the winner for the Female Denim competition was global, I thought to myself that I was global. I am so excited to get an internship at Lee Jeans. I am very excited to start my career there."

Zhou said she really wants to thank

her models and say how much she appreciated them. She said her models inspire her.

"I wasn't that surprised what she won the denim competition because I knew how hard she worked for it," said Sonya Merwin, junior in marketing. "During the judging process for her outfit, the judges seemed very interested and they really liked the jeans she designed."

The Cotton Challenge Project is a new course that offers students a deeper understanding and knowledge of the materials that are used in apparel design. The purpose of the course is to expand future fashion professionals' understanding of the cotton production chain and the cotton fabrications.

"This course was incredible," said Collin Campion, junior in apparel design. "It has been such a great experience to have become best friends with everyone in this program. It all has been worth it and has been such a great experience."

Campion placed first in the Men's Fashion Denim completion sponsored by the Plains Cotton Cooperative Association. This organization is the only company that can trace the cotton they use in their jeans to the original growers through a unique barcode system.

"This entire process has been quite overwhelming," Campion said. "I don't think people understand how much time and effort goes into making the

clothing we all wear. There is a lot of support and comradery. I really want to thank PCCA for giving us all of the fabric we used and for helping to sponsor all of the trips that we took throughout the semester."

Each person in the Cotton Challenge Project course had his or her own line. Anyone in apparel design could participate in this runway show, but only a few students outside of the course participated in the fashion show.

"The fashion show was our way to showcase what our program can do," said Amber Vossen, senior in apparel design and textile marketing. "This also shows what our marketing team can do. Since I am a part of the marketing team, I really want people to be educated about cotton and the different stages of cotton production."

This class has been in session all semester, and the students have been preparing for the fashion show since August. As the designers brought their lines together, the marketing team subsequently adapted the plan for the show. The hope for this show was to spread awareness about cotton and cotton production and why it is important to be sustainable in the United States.

"Everyone did such a great job," Campion said. "I was completely blown away by everyone's talent. Everything was worth it and this was such a great experience."

# BASKETBALL | Team hopes to keep up intensity in game against Hawkeyes

Continued from page 5

catches, when you walk away with double-doubles off a double-team and physical, big, strong defenders, you're playing great basketball."

Both Childs and junior captain Brittany Chambers can prepare themselves to be double-teamed from Iowa this weekend.

The Hawkeyes have a starting five players averaging 10 points per game.

"Hofstra and Iowa are a little like Iowa State," Patterson said. "You know, shoot it before you turn it over, shoot it quick, shoot a lot of threes and drive the ball to get to the line, so it's a contrast in style."

Despite the contrast in playing style, K-State has a 2-0 record

against the Hawkeyes in Manhattan. However, during last year's meeting in Iowa, K-State fell to the Hawkeyes 68-62.

Childs knows Iowa's strength is in their shooters.

"We played them last year and our focus was defending their three," Childs said, "and if we can stop their threes and focus on our team concepts then we can do well defensively."

Childs said after having Monday off, the intensity level of their practices this week has been high in preparation for the Hawkeyes.

"We're getting ready and mentally tough for Iowa this weekend," Childs said, "and I think if we keep up this intensity that we have in practice then we're gonna play hard, and play well against Iowa this weekend."



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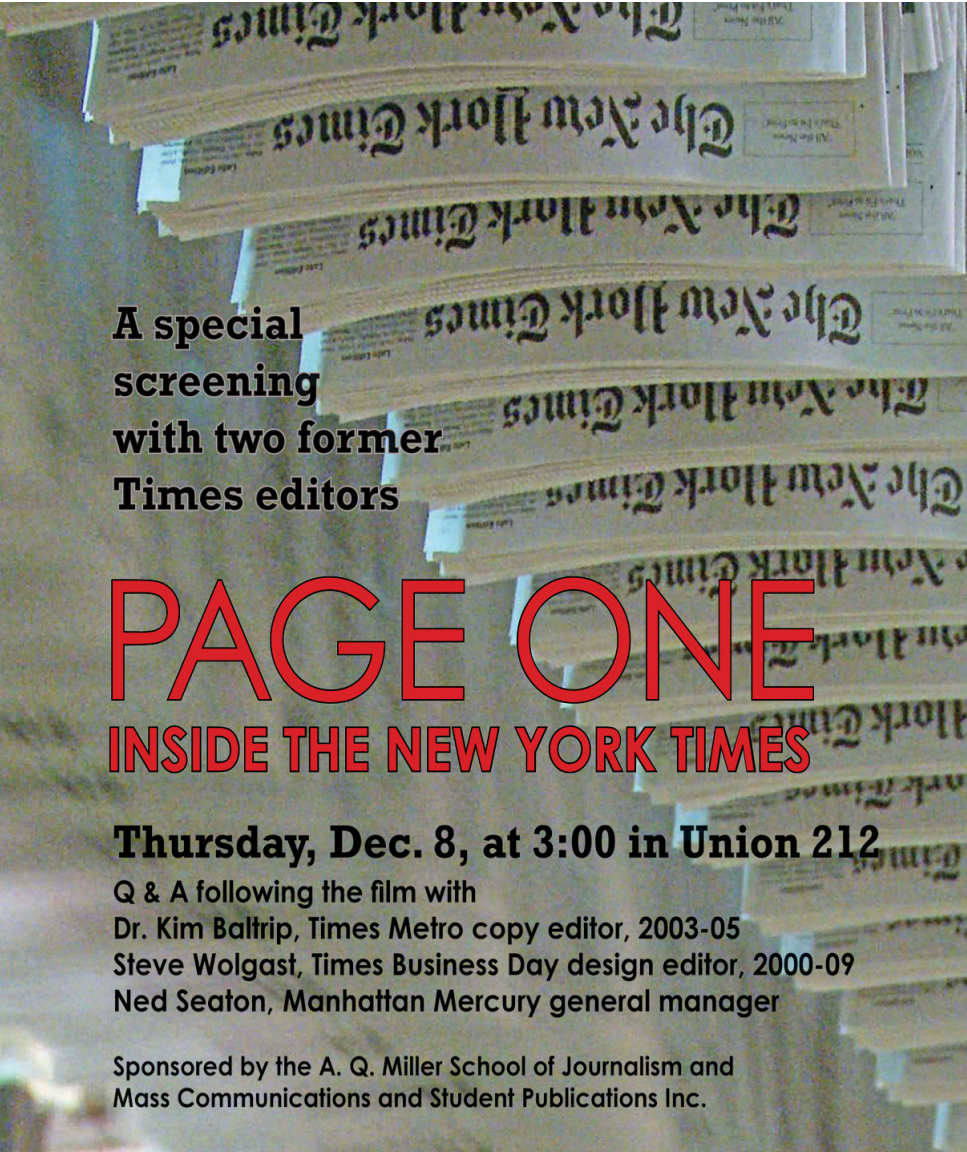
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